

**Amendment to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

1-18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) A process ~~comprising~~ for removing heavy metals or noble metals from aqueous solutions, from saline solutions from alkali metal chloride electrolysis, from aqueous hydrochloric acid, from waste water or flue gas scrubber effluent, from ground water or landfill eluate, from liquid or gaseous hydrocarbons, carboxylic acids, or from halogenated hydrocarbons comprising:

contacting the aqueous solution, the saline solution, the aqueous hydrochloric acid, the waste water or flue gas effluent, the ground water or landfill eluate, the liquid or gaseous hydrocarbon, the carboxylic acid, or the halogenated hydrocarbon with ~~with~~ an ion exchanger having chelating functional groups,

wherein the ion exchanger is prepared by

(a) reacting monomer droplets made from at least one monovinylaromatic compound and at least one polyvinylaromatic compound to give a monodisperse, crosslinked bead polymer.

(b) amidomethylating the monodisperse, crosslinked bead polymer from step (a) with phthalimide derivatives.

(c) converting the amidomethylated bead polymer from step (b) to an aminomethylated bead polymer, and

(d) converting the aminomethylated bead polymer from step (c) to ion exchangers having chelating groups.

~~prepared by a process according to Claim 1 according to Claim 17.~~

20. (Original) A process according to Claim 19 wherein the metal is mercury, iron, cobalt, nickel, copper, zinc, lead, cadmium, manganese, uranium, vanadium, elements of the platinum group, gold, silver, or a combination thereof.

21. (Original) A process according to Claim 19 wherein rhodium, elements of the platinum group, gold, silver, rhodium- or noble-metal-containing catalyst residues are removed from organic solutions or solvents.

22. (Original) A process according to Claim 19 wherein heavy metals or noble metals are removed from recycle wastes.

23. (Original) A process according to Claim 19 wherein alkaline-earth metals are removed from saline solutions from alkali metal chloride electrolysis.

24. (Original) A process according to Claim 19 wherein heavy metals are removed from substances that are converted by electrolytic treatment.